

## Bible 11/12: Dating and Marriage

### Self-Image and Marriage

1. Marriage is the most intimate of all relationships
  - a. We all enter marriage less than perfect
  - b. Because we're imperfect, we will not be a perfect spouse
  - c. We will carry our baggage into marriage. (So will our spouses and we'll spend much of the marriage unpacking that baggage.)
  - d. We will approach marriage with our own perceptions whether they're real and positive or false and warped.
  - e. We will not have perfect marriages.
2. What is self-image?
  - a. It's the way you see yourself
  - b. Sources: experiences, relationships, friendships, successes, failures, memories.
  - c. It affects how we react to situations and make decisions
3. Wrong bases for self-image
  - a. Appearance
    - i. Problem
      1. It can be destroyed in moment
      2. It's based on society's changing standards
      3. Looks will fade and change over time.
    - ii. Solution: God designed each of us and we are beautiful.
  - b. Performance
    - i. Problem
      1. It can be lost in a moment
      2. It will fade with time
    - ii. Solution: Faithfulness—God wants us to use the skills he's given to the best of our abilities.
  - c. Status—How important am I to others?
    - i. Problem: standards are temporary and constantly changing
    - ii. Solution: Jesus died for us and we are part of his family.
4. Biblical standards for a positive self-image
  - a. A sense of belonging
  - b. A sense of worth
  - c. A sense of competency